

The Comickall Historie of

Por. The qualitic of mercy is not straine,
It droppeth as the gentle raine from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest,
It blesteth him that gives, and him that takes.
Tis mightiest in the mightiest, it becomes
The throned Monarch better then his Crowne.
His scepter shewes the force of temporall power,
The attribute to awe and majestic,
Wherein doth sit the dread and feare of Kings:
But mercy is above this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of Kings,
It is an attribute to God himselve;
And earthly power doth then shew likest gods,
When mercy seasons justice: therefore Jew,
Though justice be thy plea, consider this,
That in the course of justice none of us
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy,
And that same prayer, doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much
To mitigate the justice of thy plea,
Which if thou follow, this strict Court of *Venice*
Must needs give sentence 'gainst the Merchant there.

Shy. My deeds upon my head, I crave the Law,
The penalty and forfeit of my Bond:

Por. Is he not able to discharge the money?

Bass. Yes, here I tender it for him in the Court,
Yea, twice the summe, if that will not suffice,
I will be bound to pay it ten times ore
On forfeit on my hands, my head, my heart;
If this will not suffice, it must appeare
That malice beares down truth. And I beseech you
Wrest once the Law to your authority,
To do a great right, do a little wrong,
And curbe this cruell Devill of his will.

Por. It must not be, there is no power in *Venice*
Can alter a Decree established:
'Twill be recorded for a precedent,
And many an error by the same example

the Merchant

Will rush into the street, it cannot

Shy. A *Daniel* come to judge

O wise young Judge, how I do

Por. I pray you let me look

Shy. Here 'tis most reverend

Por. *Shylocke*, there's thrice

Shy. An oath, an oath, I have

Shall I lay perjury upon my sou

No, not for *Venice*.

Por. Why this Bond is forfe

And lawfully by this the Jew

A pound of flesh, to be by him

Neerest the Merchants heart: b

Take thrice thy money, bid me

Shy. When it is paid accordi

It doth appeare you are a wort

You know the law, your exposi

Hath been most found: I charg

Whereof you are a well deserv

Proceed to judgement: by my

There is no power in the tongu

To alter me, I stay here on my

Ant. Most heartily I do bes

To give the judgement.

Por. Why than thus it is,

You must prepare your bosom

Shy. O noble judge, O excell

Por. For the intent and purp

Hath full relation to the penalty

Which here appeareth due upon

Jew. Tis very true: O wise

How much more elder art thou

Por. Therefore lay bare your

Jew. I, his breast,

So sayes the Bond, doth it not no

Neerest his heart, those are the v

Por. It is so, are there ballance

Jew. I have them ready.

Will